

BOOK REVIEWS

Handbook of Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases. By A. E. W. McLachlan. 1951. Fourth Edition. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. viii + 368, 160 illus., 20 in colour. 17s. 6d.

The fourth edition brings this popular book up to date. The author has rightly emphasized the necessity for a longer surveillance period after some of the newer methods of treating early syphilis. The value of quantitative serological tests in the diagnosis of latent syphilis and in the difficult problem of serological follow-up could have been more strongly stressed; many venereologists in Great Britain advocate quantitative serological tests for syphilis instead of the simpler qualitative tests. The diagnosis and treatment of non-gonococcal urethritis and vaginitis are discussed, since a large proportion of the cases now attending the special centres fall into these categories. Venereologists will endorse the warning that adequate tests for accurate diagnosis are essential before any form of treatment is begun.

C. H. W.

Recent Advances in Pharmacology. By J. M. Robson and C. A. Keele. 1950. J. and A. Churchill, London. Pp. 418. 24s.

Therapeutics must be based on a sound and up-to-date knowledge of pharmacology. Progress in the development and clinical application of new preparations has latterly been so rapid that this addition to the Recent Advances series is particularly welcome. The authors found it impossible to review the whole field of pharmacological advance but the individual topics considered are well chosen. Each section includes a list of important references; articles which review a particular subject are specially marked, and thus more detailed study is facilitated. The index (18 pp.) seems full and accurate.

Certain sections will be of direct value to the venereologist: Chapter 3, Anti-Histamine Drugs; Chapter 4, Sensitization to Drugs; Chapter 7, Bacterial Chemotherapy. The mode of action of drugs (Chapter 15) is presented interestingly, and dimercapto-propanol (BAL) is discussed as an example of substrate competition.

Chapter 17 will interest the clinician and help him greatly in the planning and statistical control of evaluations of the action of drugs in man. Its conciseness, clarity, and readability are characteristic of the whole book, which is warmly recommended to medical readers irrespective of their particular interests.

S. M. L.

A Text-Book of Venereal Diseases. By R. R. Willcox. 1950. Heinemann, London. Pp. 439, 154 illus., 7 col. pl. 32s. 6d.

The author's experience of venereal diseases and the treponematoses during the past decade is probably unique and in this book he presents the fruits of his labours in a balanced and informative account of modern venereology. The student in temperate climates will find here all that he requires, whilst the attention devoted to the treponematoses and tropical conditions makes the book particularly valuable for those proceeding or already practising overseas.

Gonorrhoea and non-gonococcal discharges in both sexes, together with the relevant anatomical details, are described in eight chapters (90 pp.). Ten chapters (160 pp.) are devoted to acquired and congenital syphilis, including an excellent section on prognosis. Yaws, bejel, and pinta, the other venereal diseases and non-venereal conditions commonly met with in venereal diseases clinics, are all described. The remaining six chapters (100 pp.) cover the sulphonamides, antibiotics, arsenicals, heavy metals, and iodides, the prophylaxis and control of venereal diseases, and the technical details of common diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The index (16 pp.) is accurate, and the illustrations, with a few exceptions, are of a high standard.

Progress in antibiotic therapy may well make a new edition of this book desirable in the not-too-distant future, when it is to be hoped that the opportunity will be taken to eliminate the numerous minor errors, largely typographical, which appear in the present edition. In all other respects, Dr. Willcox can be congratulated on writing a comprehensive text-book which can be recommended confidently to practitioners both at home and overseas.

S. M. L.